

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
CINCEUR
OSAA/CINCLANT
USNMR
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USDEL MC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: NATO CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM

REF: A. USNATO 0553, 011701Z FEB 77
B. STATE 020065,282052Z JAN 77,
C. SHAPE 3910/18-2-1-S4/75, 5 FEB 75
D. MCM 59-75, 9 SEP 75, E. MCM 57-76,3AUG 76
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F USNATO 435,261552Z JAN 77 (NOTAL)G. AC/300-D/1, 5 DEC 76

1. DEVELOPMENTS IN THE 28 JAN 77 MEETING OF THE AD HOC
WORKING GROUP (AHWG) ON A NATO CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM
REPORTED IN REF A MAKE CLEAR THAT THE CENTRAL PROBLEM IS
THE GERMAN (AND TO A LESSER EXTENT THE BELGIAN) OPPOSITION
TO A NAC/DPC COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER LOGISTICS. REGARDLESS
OF THE MERITS OF THE PHASE II PAPER BEING DEVELOPED BY
THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF IT APPEARS THAT WE ARE UNLIKELY
TO SUCCEED WITH THIS IMPORTANT INITIATIVE, UNLESS WE CAN

OVERCOME THE PRESENT RIGIDITY OF THE GERMAN AND BELGIAN POSITIONS. WE ARE NOW AT THE FIRST REALLY CRITICAL JUNCTURE IN THIS EFFORT. AS MISSION KNOWS, THE PREVIOUS US MAJOR INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH A HIGH-LEVEL LOGISTICS COMMITTEE IN 1966 WAS UNSUCCESSFUL. IF THIS ONE FAILS, IT MAY BE SEVERAL YEARS BEFORE WE CAN TRY AGAIN. WE MUST, THEREFORE, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO SUCCEED. REGARDING MISSION

SUGGESTION, THE J-4, OJCS, HAS ALREADY APPROACHED HIS GERMAN COUNTERPART ON SEVERAL OCCASSIONS, BUT THIS DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE INFLUENCED THE GERMAN POSITION. WE THEREFORE BELIEVE IT WILL SOON BE APPROPRIATE FOR EMBASSIES VOND AND BRUSSELS TO HOST THEIR HOST MODS AT HIGH LEVEL TO "" EXPLAIN US POSITION AND SEEK A CHANGE IN GERMAN AND BELGIAN POSITIONS. WE WILL BE PROVIDING BACKGROUND SEPTEL TO EMBASSIES BONN AND BRUSSELS, BUT THOSE EMBASSIES MAY WANT MORE DETAILED INFORMATION,

-- AND MISSIONASSISTANCE MAY BE IN ORDER PER PARA 2 REF B. IN THE MEANTIME, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF MISSION EXPLORED THE SITUATION WITH THE GERMAN PERMREP IN ORDER TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE NATURE AND SOURCE OF THE GERMAN POSITION AND TO BEGIN TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR CHANGING IT, IF POSSIBLE. FYI. WE BELIEVE THAT THE OPPOSITION STEMS PRIMARILY FROM THE LOGISTICS CHIEF IN THE GERMAN MOD, A MILITARY OFFICER WHO FILLS A POSITION SPANNING ROUGHLY THE COMBINEDRESPONSIBILITIES OF THE US
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ASD(I AND L) AND J-4, JOINT-STAFF. THE SITUATION IN BONN MAY BE FORTUITOUS FOR A HIGH LEVEL APPROACH BECAUSE THE MOD STATE SECRETARY RESPONSIBLE, AMONG OTHER THINGS, -- FOR LOGISTICS IS NOW THE FORMER COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE CENTRAL REGION, RETIRED ARMY GENERAL KARL SCHNELL, WHO WILL, NO DOUBT HAVE THE FULLEST APPRECIATION OF THE NEED FOR HIGH LEVEL ACTION ON THE NATO LOGISTICS PROBLEM. END FYI.

2. IN THE MEANTIME, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PHASE II STUDY REPORT DEVELOP OPTIONS WITH PROS AND CONS WHICH WILL AT THE SAME TIME (A) OFFER AN APPROACH ACCEPTABLE TO GERMANY AND BELGIUM AND (B) ESTABLISH IN SOME WORKABLE FORM A FORUM RESPONSIBLE TO THE NAC/DPC TO ADDRESS, RESOLVE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE AND WHERE RESOLUTION IS NOT POSSIBLE MAKE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS TO MINISTERS CONCERNING THOSE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS WHICH ARE BEYOND THE POWERS OF THE SENIOR NATIONAL MILITARY LOGISTICIANS AND THE MILITARY COMMITTEE TO RESOLVE.

3. THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THERE IS A NEED FOR A HIGH-LEVEL LOGISTICS FORUM UNDER THE NAC/DPC, AND WE SHOULD STRONGLY REITERATE AND REINFORCE THEIR STATEMENTS IN THE PHASE II STUDY.

A. SACEUR STATES IN HIS FEASIBILITY STUDY TO IMPROVE THE LOGISTICS POSTURE IN ACE (REF C, PARA 1.4) THAT, ".PROGRESS IN ANY FIELD OF LOGISTICS IS TOO STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, FINANCIAL AND LEGAL PROBLEMS, TO BE DEALT WITH BY AN INSTITUTION THAT HAS NO DIRECT ACCESS TO AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE IN THESE IMPORTANT FIELDS

OF NATIONAL DECISION MAKING PROCESSES...THERE SHOULD BE A CORRESPONDING BODY IN THE DPC ORGANIZATION TO DEAL WITH THOSE FACTORS."

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B. IN REF D, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE (MC) APPROVED SACEUR'S REPORT (REF C) AND INVITED THE DPC TO CONSIDER CREATION OF A HIGH-LEVEL LOGISTICS BODY.

C. IN ANTICIPATION OF DPC ACTION ON THE MC RECOMMENDATION, AND TO STRENGTHEN THE MILITARY EFFORT IN LOGISTICS AND ACT AS FAR AS THE MILITARY COULD ON SACEUR'S RECOMMENDATION, THE MC CONVENED THE JUNE 1976 CONFERENCE OF SENIOR NATIONAL MILITARY LOGISTICIANS. IN FORWARDING THE REPORT TO THE NAC (REF E), THE MC REITERATED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SENIOR MILITARY LOGISTICIANS WHICH URGED EARLY DECISION ON A CONSUMER LOGISTICS BODY.

4. IN REF F, MISSION INFORMED US THAT THE MC HAD APPROVED DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTION PROGRAM BY THE CONFERENCE OF SENIOR NATIONAL MILITARY LOGISTICIANS AT THEIR SCHEDULED 26-27 APRIL 1977 MEETING AND WOULD INVITE THE NAC TO IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THOSE ACTIONS BEYOND THE AUTHORITY OF THE MC, AND TO ALLOCATE TO THESE AUTHORITIES THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR FURTHER ACTION.

5. THUS, THE CENTRAL ISSUE BEFORE THE NAC/DPC, THE AHWG AND THE ASG/DS IS HOW TO DEAL MOST EFFECTIVELY AT NAC/DPC LEVEL WITH THOSE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS ON WHICH THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES NEED HELP. AS THE US REP INDICATED AT THE 28 JAN 77 AHWG MEETING, THE PHASE II STUDY SHOULD THOROUGHLY EXAMINE ALL REASONABLE POSSIBILITIES. WE BELIEVE THE RESULT SHOULD BE SUCH THAT ALL NATIONS CAN CLEARLY SEE AND ENDORSE, AT MINIMUM, THE PROS AND CONS PUT FORTH ON EACH OPTION. MISSION SHOULD PRESS STEADILY FOR SUCH A STUDY RESULT.

6. CONSIDERATION OF OPTIONS (PARA 10, REF G);

A. REFER LOGISTICS PROBLEMS DIRECTLY TO NAC/DPC: THIS
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IS OBVIOUSLY IMPRACTICABLE. THE PERMREPS NOT ONLY REQUIRE EXPERT ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE, BUT THERE IS A NEED FOR A FORUM IN WHICH THE TOP NATIONAL LOGISTICS OFFICIALS (BOTH CIVIL AND/OR MILITARY, AS APPLICABLE) CAN ACT TO SOLVE AS MANY PROBLEMS AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT RESORT TO THE NAC/DPC.

B. EXPAND THE WORK OF EXISTING SENIOR FORA: THIS IS NOT

THE MOST DESIRABLE SOLUTION, BUT IN THE END WE MAY BE FORCED TO ACCEPT SUCH A COMPROMISE. PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IS THAT NO EXISTING NAC/DPC FORUM INCLUDES THE SENIOR NATIONAL LOGISTICS AUTHORITIES. THERE APPEAR TO BE TWO OPTIONS: THE DEFENSE REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC) AND THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP (EWG):

(1) DRC: INAPPROPRIATE BECAUSE MEMBERSHIP AND CHAIRMAN ARE ORIENTED TOWARD BROAD DEFENSE POLICY AND FORCE PLANNING.

(2) EWG: A POSSIBILITY, BUT MEMBERS ARE NOT THE SENIOR NATIONAL LOGISTICIANS WHO CAN RETURN HOME AND ACT. EWG MIGHT, HOWEVER, BE HELPFUL IN FRAMING RECOMMENDATIONS TO PERMREPS AND MINISTERS, AND IN COORDINATING INTER-RELATED LOGISTICS WORK IN THE MILITARY FORA AND THE SENIOR CIVIL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE. THERE IS ALSO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE NAC/DPC MIGHT AUTHORIZE THE EWG TO MEET TWICE A YEAR IN A "NATIONAL LOGISTICS DIRECTORS SESSION," THUS ACHIEVING OUR GOAL IN A DIFFERENT FORM AND OBVIATING FORMATION OF A NEW COMMITTEE. MISSION VIEWS ON THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD BE HELPFUL.

C. CONFERENCE OF SENIOR NATIONAL MILITARY LOGISTICIANS (CSNML) WITH CIVIL AUGMENTATION: TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT SUGGESTED BY THE UK REP IN REF A, THIS IDEA HAS POSSIBILITIES. HOWEVER, WASHINGTON PREFERS THAT A SOLUTION CONFIDENTIAL

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OF THIS TYPE PRESERVE THE IDENTITY AND INDEPENDENCE OF THE SENIOR MILITARY LOGISTICIANS UNDER A MILITARY CHAIRMAN SO THAT THEY MAY PROVIDE PURELY MILITARY ADVICE ON LOGISTICS PROBLEMS TO THE MC WHENEVER IT MIGHT DESIRE. WE BELIEVE THIS COULD BE ACCOMMODATED QUITE COMFORTABLY UNDER THE UK PROPOSAL AND THE BACK-TO-BACK MEETING IDEA MAY BE ATTRACTIVE TO GERMANY. WE WOULD STRESS THAT WHEN FUNCTIONING AS AN ADVISORY BODY TO THE NAC/DPC, IT MUST INCLUDE BOTH THE TOP, REPEAT TOP, NATIONAL CIVIL AND MILITARY LOGISTICS AUTHORITIES. IN THIS ROLE, THE GROUP PROBABLY SHOULD BE CHAIRED FORMALLY, BUT NOMINALLY, BY THE SECGENERAL OR DEPUTY SECGENERAL AND ACTIVELY BY THE

ASG/DS, AS IS THE CNAD. THE SOLUTION SUGGESTED BY THE UK REP HAS THE ADVANTAGE OF POSING NO ORGANIZATIONAL THREAT TO THE SENIOR MILITARY LOGISTICIANS, WHO WE BELIEVE ARE VERY VALUABLE AS ADVISORS TO THE MC. THEIR IMPACT IN ONE SESSION IS FORCEFUL EVIDENCE OF THIS. WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT THE BEST COMPROMISE SOLUTION MAY LIE IN THE UK SUGGESTION AND THAT THE MISSION SHOULD SEEK TO INSURE THAT THE STUDY TREATS THIS CONCEPT FULLY.

B. A NEW SENIOR FORUM: WASHINGTON BELIEVES THAT THIS IS THE PREFERRED OPTION AND ADOPTION OF ONE OF THE ALTERNATIVES SHOULD OCCUR ONLY AFTER ALL POSSIBLE EFFORT TO GET THE SENIOR NAC/DPC COMMITTEE APPROVED. HOWEVER, IF WE CAN ACHIEVE THE PREFERRED OBJECTIVE BY WAY OF THE UK SUGGESTION, THEN THIS MAY HAVE ADVANTAGE IN BRINGING GERMANY AND BELGIUM ALONG.

7. WITH THE UK SUGGESTION OFFERING A POSSIBLE SOLUTION ON WHICH WE MIGHT ACHIEVE AGREEMENT, WE THINK IT NOW IMPORTANT THAT PARTICULAR CARE BE TAKEN WITH THE LANGUAGE USED TO DESCRIBE THE GROUP IN ITS ROLE AS ADVISOR TO THE NAC/DPC. WE BELIEVE THE GROUP SHOULD BE REFERRED TO IN THE STUDY, AS WELL AS IN FUTURE DISCUSSION, AS A NAC/DPC COMMITTEE OR FORUM NOT AS A "CIVIL" FORUM. WE SUGGEST CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT IF POSSIBLE ALL USE OF EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS "CIVIL COMMITTEE", "CIVIL STRUCTURE," ETC., BE ABANDONED IN FAVOR OF MORE DESCRIPTIVE AND POSSIBLY LESS DIVISIVE EXPRESSIONS SUCH AS "COUNCIL FORUM" OR "NAC/DPC FORUM" WE ALSO SUGGEST THAT MORE POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS BE FOUND TO REPLACE SUCH PHRASEOLOGY AS CNAD "DIVORCING ITSELF" OR "DIVESTING ITSELF" OF LOGISTICS, SINCE THESE IMPLY AN ARBITRARY ACTION ON CNAD'S PART. THIS, OF COURSE, WAS NOT THE CASE. CNAD SIMPLY DID NOT HAVE THE TIME OR INCLINATION TO ADDRESS CONSUMER LOGISTICS, AND, AS MISSION KNOWS, IT WAS CAREFULLY ENCOURAGED TO YIELD THE CLAIM IT HAD. CNAD DID SO WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS IMPORTANT AREA NEEDED ATTENTION AND COULD BEST BE DEALT WITH IN ANOTHER GROUP.

8. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING AND COMMENTING ON THE DRAFT OF THE PHASE II REPORT.
HARTMAN

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